

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action of November 30, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 4-11 and 15-20 remain in this application. Claims 1-3 and 12-14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Preliminarily, applicant submitted an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) with the application as filed on September 19, 2001. However, the undersigned did not receive an initialed copy of form PTO/SB/08A with the instant office action confirming that the art cited in the IDS had been considered and made of record. As such, applicant respectfully requests that an initialed copy of the form PTO/SB/08A submitted with the IDS filed September 19, 2001 be returned with the next communication in the instant application. Should the Examiner need a copy of the form filed, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the number identified below. Also, applicant is submitting concurrently herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement providing an English language translation of the Japanese language office action previously submitted as part of the Information Disclosure Statement filed February 22, 2005.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that the application contains allowable subject matter. Specifically, claims 4-11 and 15-20 have been objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if amended to incorporate all the features of their ultimate base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended the specification to correct various minor informalities discovered therein.

Claim 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 4,680,516 to Volk et al. ("Volk") and claims 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent no. 5,705,947 to Jeong in view of Volk. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. Nonetheless, to expedite prosecution and place the application in condition for allowance, applicant has canceled claims 1-3 and 12-14 rendering the rejections moot.

Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form to include most of the features of original claim 1 and 3, while not bodily incorporating the language of claims 1 and 3 directed to the F/F

control circuit. Nonetheless, applicant submits that claim 4 as amended is patentably distinct from the applied art for the same reasons that resulted in the claim being identified as containing allowable subject matter. Also, claims 5-11, which ultimately depend from claim 4 are patentably distinct from the applied art for the same reasons and further in view of the additional advantageous features recited therein.

Likewise, claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form to include most of the features of original claim 12, while not bodily incorporating the language of claims 12 directed to the F/F control circuit. Nonetheless, applicant submits that claim 15 as amended is patentably distinct from the applied art for the same reasons that resulted in the claim being identified as containing allowable subject matter. Also, claims 16-20, which ultimately depend from claim 15 are patentably distinct from the applied art for the same reasons and further in view of the additional advantageous features recited therein.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that no fee is required for this submission. If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

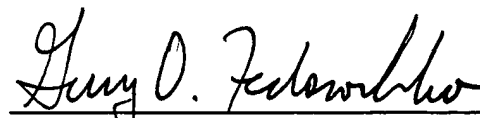
All rejections having been addressed, applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

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